



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,332	07/10/2003	Tamio Yoshino	FY.17474US0A	2830
20995	7590	10/13/2005	EXAMINER	
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP			LARSON, LOWELL A	
2040 MAIN STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
FOURTEENTH FLOOR				
IRVINE, CA 92614			3725	

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/617,332	YOSHINO ET AL.	
	Examiner Lowell A. Larson	Art Unit 3725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 to 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 11, 12 and 14 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 to 10, 13 and 15 to 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/10/2003</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) based upon applications filed in Japan on December 25, 2000 and May 8, 2001. A claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) cannot be based on said applications, since the United States application was filed more than twelve months thereafter. *Claim*

Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 to 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tressel in view of Johnson.

Tressel discloses tube bending in which fluid pressure is exerted within the tube during the bend manipulation. The pressure is monitored and maintained at a desired value.

Johnson discloses tube bending with internal fluid pressure, and advises that the optimum amount of pressure varies depending on the material and thickness of the tube. See column 8, lines 37 to 39.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to find values for the internal pressure for any particular bend in Tressel merely as an exercise of routine experimentation, following the suggestion of

Johnson that optimum values may vary and be found empirically, in order to expedite bending process. The particular variables considered for any specific bend in finding an optimum, or target, pressure value are not a patentable distinction since the optimum pressure would be the same regardless of how it is calculated.

4. Claims 15 to 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tressel in view of Johnson as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Crippa.

These claims require the bending device to have a controller and dies with first and second radii. Crippa show that such bending arrangements are well known in the art.

It would have been further obvious to employ a bending device such as that of Crippa to form bends in the Tressel pressurized tube merely as the utilization of knowledge clearly present in the art depending merely on the bend characteristics desired in the product, and not a patentable distinction absent a disclosure of criticality in the solution of stated problems with the use of any specific bending arrangement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 3725

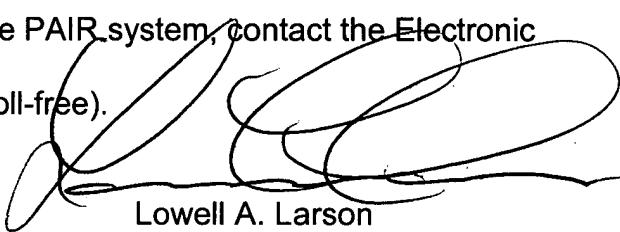
It is not clear how the pressure can be both maintained at the target pressure and increased from the target pressure, as required by this claim when taken with Claim 11.

Conclusion

7. Claims 11, 12 and 14 are allowed. The prior art does not suggest that it would be desirable to increase the internal pressure while forming a bend, as recited in these claims.
8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Roper and Kawamura et al. further show the state of the art.
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lowell A. Larson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4519. The examiner can normally be reached from M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Banks Derris can be reached at (571) 272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Lowell A. Larson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3725

LAL
October 5, 2005